

# 2004 Annual Report



**MIAMI-DADE**

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

**Commission Members**

Kerry E. Rosenthal, Chair

Judge Robert H. Newman, Vice-Chair

Dawn E. Addy

Gail A. Dotson

Brenda Rivera

**Staff Members**

Robert Meyers, Executive Director

Michael Murawski, Advocate

Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel

Christina Prkic, Staff Attorney

Manuel Diaz, Lead Investigator

Sylvia Batista, Investigator

Yolanda Bielovucic, Investigator

Arthur Skinner, Investigator

Beverly Morrison, Investigator

Karl Ross, Investigator

Christina Topley, Auditor

Victoria Frigo, Law Clerk

Rodzandra Sanchez, Community Outreach Specialist

Rachelle Cedeno, Administrative Assistant

Robert Thompson, Community Outreach Coordinator

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March 15, 2005

Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez  
Honorable Board Members of the County  
Commission  
Mr. George Burgess, County Manager  
Miami-Dade County Citizens

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics  
& Public Trust is pleased to present its 2004  
Annual Report.

In 2004, as in previous years, the Ethics  
Commission allocated significant resources to its  
four major functions—advice-giving,  
investigations and enforcement, community  
education and outreach, and policy and legislative  
activities. With an increase of two employees, the  
Ethics Commission had its most productive year  
ever. We saw sizable growth in the number of  
opinions and inquiries addressed, cases  
investigated, complaints filed, and educational  
programs offered.

Community collaborations remained a cornerstone  
of many of our outreach activities. In a report  
published in 2004, the Commission on Ethics, in  
conjunction with the Ethics Coalition, measured  
the steps taken and resources expended over the  
past several years to restore public trust,  
accountability, and integrity in government in  
Miami-Dade County. Another noteworthy  
partnership resulted in a series of ethics debates for  
candidates seeking elected office on the County  
Commission and School Board, as well as for  
County Mayor. In total, the Ethics Commission  
sponsored close to 200 workshops, seminars,  
training sessions, and other presentations.

In the area of advice-giving, the Ethics  
Commission responded to approximately 375

formal and informal requests for opinions—a substantial increase over 2003. In addition to this record number of responses, the Ethics Commission also improved dissemination of its opinions. Recent opinions, which are posted regularly on the Ethics Commission website, are now sent directly to County Ethics Officers as well.

Investigations and other enforcement actions remain a critical component of our operations. More cases were opened in 2004 than in any other year, and more than 50 complaints were filed. Additionally, the Ethics Commission began the arduous task of conducting post-election audits of candidates who ran for County office and received distributions from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

On the legislative front, the Ethics Commission supported policy changes to increase transparency and openness in government and create stiffer penalties for violators of County ethics ordinances. Toward these ends, the County Commission adopted a new provision that bans vendors and contractors from paying travel expenses of local government officials and employees. Additionally, the Ethics Commission was given authority to impose restitution against individuals who violate one of the ordinances within its purview. The Ethics Commission also continued to offer its guidance to municipalities interested in strengthening existing ethics laws or adopting “good government” laws.

As always, we appreciate your support of our endeavors to raise the standard of public service in Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

//original signed//

Robert Meyers  
Executive Director

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Ethics Commission was founded on the principle that integrity is essential to both the governmental decision-making process and the process whereby candidates are elected. Toward this end, we seek to strictly enforce the ethics ordinances within our purview. But another critical component of our mandate includes educating both the public as well as those serving in government. Each group has an important role to play in ensuring that our community leaders and staff are accountable and public trust in them is warranted. Only by requiring the highest ethical behavior from those in public service can fairness, openness, and transparency in government be achieved.

## FUNCTIONS & AUTHORITY

The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction in both Miami-Dade County and the 35 municipalities within its borders, provided the subject matter falls within one of the following ordinances under its authority:

- ❑ **Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance**
- ❑ **Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund Ordinance**
- ❑ **Citizens' Bill of Rights**
- ❑ **Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance**

Our specific statutory authority is derived from Miami-Dade County Code §2-1072. This ordinance grants the Ethics Commission the power to review, interpret, enforce, and render opinions regarding the above-mentioned County ordinances as well as municipal ordinances.

## HISTORY

In 1996, the citizens of Miami-Dade County voted to amend the Home Rule Charter to create an Ethics Commission. Subsequently, the Board of County Commissioners, through Ordinance 97-105, established the Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, an independent agency with advice-giving and quasi-judicial powers.

The Ethics Commission is composed of five volunteer members who serve staggered terms of four years each. Members are appointed by the following individuals or institutions:

- ❑ **Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit**—two appointments with the following qualifications:
  - (1) Former Federal Judge, or former U.S. Magistrate, or former State Court Judge
  - (2) Former U.S. Attorney or Assistant U.S. Attorney, former State or Assistant State Attorney, former County or Assistant County Attorney, or former City or Assistant City Attorney.
- ❑ **Dean of the University of Miami School of Law and Dean of the St. Thomas University School of Law**—one shared appointment with the following qualifications:
  - Faculty member from the law school who has taught a course in professional legal ethics or who has published or performed services in the field of professional legal ethics.
- ❑ **Miami-Dade League of Cities**—one appointment with the following qualifications:
  - Member who has held local elective office prior to appointment.
- ❑ **Director of the Florida International University Center for Labor Research and Studies**—one appointment.

Each member must be a resident of Miami-Dade County. Additionally, while serving on the Commission, each member cannot hold or campaign for an elective office or hold office in any political party or political committee.

The Ethics Commission is empowered to appoint the Executive Director, who must be a member of the Florida Bar. Robert Meyers was named Executive Director in 1998.



## **COMMISSION MEMBERS**

### **KERRY E. ROSENTHAL, CHAIR**

Kerry Rosenthal was appointed by the Miami-Dade League of Cities in 1998. Mr. Rosenthal is a Miami attorney and partner with the law firm of Rosenthal, Rosenthal, Rasco. His primary areas of practice include real estate and development, business transactions, and corporations.

In addition to his role as Chair of the Ethics Commission, Mr. Rosenthal also serves on the Real Estate Certification Committee of the Florida Bar and as pro-bono legal counsel for Stop Hunger, Inc. He is a former Director and President of the North Dade Bar Association and former Vice-Mayor and Councilman of the Town of Golden Beach. He is active in several bar associations and charitable organizations.

Mr. Rosenthal received his B.A. degree from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Miami.

### **ROBERT H. NEWMAN, VICE-CHAIR**

Judge Robert Newman was appointed in 1999 by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Newman, retired, is certified in Florida as a Circuit Court Mediator and is a mediator with Mediation, Inc., a group of former judges and trial attorneys providing neutral third-party settlement intervention in major pending litigation in the U.S. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Newman was appointed to the Miami-Dade County Court in 1978 following more than 20 years with the offices of the State and U.S. Attorneys, as well as in private practice. In 1982, he was appointed to the Circuit Court. From 1992 to 1997, he served as Administrative Judge in the Probate and Guardianship Division.

Judge Newman is presently Chief Special Hearing Officer with the City of Miami Beach as well as an instructor with the Miami-Dade College Paralegal Program. He is active with the Leukemia Society of America, Inc., where he was past secretary of its National Board of Trustees.

## **DAWN E. ADDY**

Dawn E. Addy, Ph.D., serves as Director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies at Florida International University (FIU). Professor Addy's academic efforts have focused primarily on issues of workplace diversity and community building. She has designed specialized training programs, curricula, and materials in numerous areas, including harassment, cultural diversity, workplace violence, conflict resolution, effective communication skills, problem solving, leadership skills, electronic publishing skills, labor law, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, HIV-AIDS, stress and self-image, bridging the gender gap, workplace literacy, and adult education techniques. She served on the Equal Opportunity Board for Miami-Dade County for five years prior to her appointment on the Ethics Commission in the fall of 2001.

Prior to her work at FIU, Dr. Addy was on the faculty of the Labor Education Service of the Industrial Relations Center at the University of Minnesota. She completed her graduate work at the University of Minnesota, earning a Master's degree in Industrial Relations and a Ph.D. in Work, Community, and Family Education. She is currently president of the group "Many Voices: One Community," which facilitates dialogue on issues of racism and immigration throughout southern Florida. Dr. Addy also serves on the Access and Equity Committee for FIU as Diversity Committee Chair.

## **GAIL ASH DOTSON**

Gail A. Dotson was appointed in December 2001 by Chief Judge Joseph P. Farina of the Eleventh Circuit. Currently, Ms. Dotson is an attorney with the law firm of Wagenfeld Levine; her practice consists primarily of workers' compensation. Previously, Ms. Dotson was the Assistant Dean in the Career Planning and Placement Department of Florida International University College of Law.

Ms. Dotson also served as the Director of Law Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Miami School of Law. A graduate of the University of Miami School of Law, Ms. Dotson was formerly an associate attorney with Fowler, White, Burnett, Hurley, Banick & Strickroot, P.A., and an assistant attorney in the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, where her focus was in administrative advocacy and commercial litigation. She is a member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and a graduate of Leadership Miami, Class of 1987.

In addition to her law degree, Ms. Dotson holds a B.S. degree from Florida A & M University and a Master's in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

## **BRENDA RIVERA**

Brenda Rivera was appointed in 2004 by the Dean of St. Thomas University School of Law. As an adjunct professor there, she directs and teaches in the family court and criminal placement clinics. Additionally, Ms. Rivera is a Senior Supervising Attorney for the Legal Aid Society of the Public Service Office of the Dade County Bar Association. Ms. Rivera supervises the domestic violence division and is responsible for implementing, developing, and overseeing new programs to serve victims in Miami-Dade.

Ms. Rivera received her B.S. degree from Florida International University and her Juris Doctorate degree from St. Thomas University School of Law.

## **ROBERT MEYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Robert Meyers has served as Executive Director of the Ethics Commission since 1998. He regularly addresses audiences on the topic of government and ethics—frequently appearing on local television programs and on panels sponsored by municipalities, chambers of commerce, bar associations, and universities.

Prior to his appointment at the Ethics Commission, Mr. Meyers was a professor at the University of Tennessee, where he taught courses in criminal law, legal ethics, government law, and public administration. He is frequently published in local newspapers, and his article titled “Professionalism and the Practice of Ethics in Local Land Use Planning” has been published in an environmental law treatise.

Mr. Meyers holds a B.A. degree from the University of Florida, a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Florida International University, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

## STAFF & BUDGET

The Ethics Commission operates in four major areas:

- ❑ **Advice-Giving**
- ❑ **Ethics Code Enforcement**
- ❑ **Education and Community Outreach**
- ❑ **Legislative Analysis and Review**

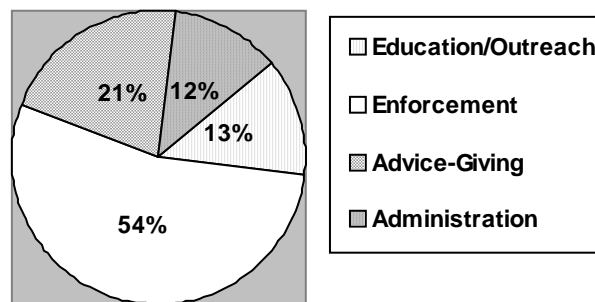
In 2004, the Ethics Commission issued 215 opinions and 164 responses to inquiries—an increase over 2003, with no additional personnel. Additionally, staff duties were adjusted to expand community outreach efforts. This refocusing was in response to an increased demand from both public and private sectors for ethics training, conferences, and workshops. Moreover, growing demands on the investigative unit resulted in the creation of a Lead Investigator position, which enabled the unit to operate more efficiently and effectively.

## BUDGET

The Ethics Commission staff in 2004 included 14 employees and two independent contractors. The contractors were hired to assist with the 2004 post-election audits of County mayoral and County Commissioner candidates who received funding from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

### Budget Breakdown

2004- 2005



These percentages reflect personnel costs, which comprise the majority of the Ethics Commission general budget of \$1.65 million. Approximately \$196,000 is budgeted for training materials, office supplies, and equipment.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

A major focus of the Ethics Commission for 2004 was to increase citizen understanding and participation in governmental accountability efforts. Several projects, listed below, were part of this extensive and proactive community education and outreach program.

### WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES and FORUMS

- ❑ ***Candidate Ethics Forums.*** The Commission on Ethics & Public Trust held a series of Candidate Ethics Forums for the County mayoral, Board of County Commission, School Board candidates, and municipal candidates. The forums provided voters opportunities to hear candidates' views and recommendations on restoring public trust, accountability, and integrity in government.
- ❑ ***Third Annual Environmental Ethics Conference.*** On March 26, 2004, representatives from government and the community joined educators from the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Miami, and Miami-Dade College in a day-long conference titled "Ecological Integrity, International Law, and Human Rights."
- ❑ ***Town Hall Meeting.*** In 2004, The Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, along with its Ethics Coalition partners, released a report titled "A Community's Resolve to Restore Integrity, Accountability, and Public Trust: The Miami-Dade Experience (1996-Present)." The report assessed efforts by Miami-Dade County over the past six years to combat corruption. A town hall meeting, organized to discuss the report, was moderated by Robin Kish of CBS 4. The event offered citizens the unique opportunity to directly address those individuals in the community who are responsible for combating corruption and promoting ethics in various sectors of the County.
- ❑ ***Procurement Ethics Workshops.*** In 2004, The Miami-Dade County Ethics Commission, the State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit, the Department of Procurement Management, and Florida International University continued to provide procurement ethics workshops for all County staff involved in the procurement process. The Board of County Commissioners mandated annual ethics training and the avoidance of Conflicts of Interest for procurement personnel when it passed Resolution 769-03. Over 400 individuals attended these workshops.
- ❑ ***Ethical Campaign Financing Seminar.*** On May 5, 2004, the Miami-Dade County Ethics Commission and the State Attorney's Office conducted an Ethical Campaign Practices & Campaign Financing Seminar. The seminar provided information on campaign contributions, the Ethical Campaign Practices

Ordinance, post-election audits, prohibited use of public funds, and state requirements for expending public funds.

## TRAINING

The Ethics Commission continued projects in the following areas:

- ❑ ***Ongoing Ethics Training for Citizens and Agencies.*** The Commission on Ethics & Public Trust provides training for advisory boards, community councils, and private and professional organizations. For additional information, or to discuss scheduling a session, please contact us at (305) 579-2594.
- ❑ ***Municipal Ethics Training.*** The Ethics Commission offers a two-hour overview of the Code of Ethics for all municipal employees and officials within Miami-Dade County. The program has been presented to nearly all of the 35 municipalities within our jurisdiction. Training is also provided to newly elected officials in the various municipalities.
- ❑ ***Initial County Ethics Training and Refresher Courses.*** Ethics training is mandatory for all new employees in Miami-Dade County, and refresher courses, with updated information, are provided on a continuing basis. Staff members from the Ethics Commission are present at many of these sessions to assist with the training.
- ❑ ***Lobbyists' Workshops.*** In response to amendments to the Lobbying Registration and Reporting Rules, the Ethics Commission staff held several workshops for lobbyists, County personnel, and other affected parties in 2004.

The Commission on Ethics & Public Trust continued to make presentations regarding the work of our agency and issues of local concern before nonprofit, professional, and private organizations, local chambers of commerce, and area colleges and universities.

The Commission maintains an active role in national ethics consortiums, professional associations, and academic networks. At the local level, Ethics Commission staff regularly attend, support, and speak at events sponsored by the Miami-Dade City and County Management Association, the Miami-Dade County Municipal Clerks Association, and the Miami-Dade League of Cities. Additionally, the Executive Director was invited to speak at the annual conferences of the Florida League of Cities as well as the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association.

## COLLABORATIONS

The Commission operates under the principle that community collaboration is fundamental to the success of our outreach and education campaign. The following are some examples of our collaborative efforts:

- ❑ ***Model Student Ethics Commission Program.*** Our affiliation with the Miami-Dade Public Schools and its Ethics Advisory Committee has enabled us to expand the Model Student Ethics Commission Program. The Model Ethics Program, designed and implemented by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, encourages students to analyze ethical dilemmas. After examining real-life examples of ethical misconduct, the students role-play various scenarios based on Ethics Commission hearings. The Model Ethics Course has been offered at three public high schools and is scheduled at four additional high schools for the 2004-2005 school year. This program was profiled in an international publication titled “Teaching Integrity to Youth: Examples from Eleven Countries,” authored by Transparency International. The Miami-Dade Model Ethics Course was the only program featured from the United States.
- ❑ ***Quarterly Luncheons with Local Government Attorneys.*** These gatherings represent an effort by the Commission to maintain a dialogue with local government attorneys on issues of mutual interest and concern.
- ❑ ***Miami-Dade College Civic Engagement Series.*** The Ethics Commission assisted Miami-Dade College in organizing a month-long program to highlight ethics issues in the community. The Ethics Commission staff participated in a number of sessions held at various campuses throughout the County.
- ❑ ***Miami-Dade County’s Ethics Officer Program.*** The Ethics Commission was successful in recommending that Miami-Dade County create the position of Ethics Officers within County government. Currently, the Ethics Commission plays a significant role in training the Ethics Officers, by disseminating ethics opinions that involve County personnel and being available to discuss the implications of these opinions.

## PUBLICATIONS

- ❑ ***Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance***, as amended through December 2004. For an updated version of the ordinance, please visit our website at [www.miamidade.gov/ethics](http://www.miamidade.gov/ethics).
- ❑ ***2004 Corruption Report***. Under the direction of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, a group of academics, civic and business leaders, and law enforcement officials, collectively known as the “Ethics Coalition,” met to discuss ethics and anti-corruption efforts over the past several years in Miami-Dade County. The findings of the Ethics Coalition were published in January 2004 in a report titled “A Community’s Resolve to Restore Accountability, Integrity, and Public Trust: The Miami-Dade Experience (1996-Present).” The report is available on our website at [www.miamidade.gov/ethics](http://www.miamidade.gov/ethics).
- ❑ ***Ethics Beat***. The Ethics Commission continued publishing its newsletter, *Ethics Beat*, with two editions in 2004. The newsletter features a column by the Executive Director as well as articles about recent Ethics Commission opinions, legislative changes, training opportunities, conferences, seminars, and workshops. The newsletter is available on our website at [www.miamidade.gov/ethics](http://www.miamidade.gov/ethics).



## **ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE**

### **FILING A COMPLAINT**

Citizens can register a grievance with the Ethics Commission by submitting a written notarized complaint executed on a form prescribed by the Ethics Commission. The complaint must allege a violation within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, be based on substantial personal knowledge of the complainant, and include as much evidence as possible. Within 30 days after receipt of the complaint, the Ethics Commission shall send a copy of the complaint to the alleged violator.

In addition, citizens can leave information and tips anonymously on our hotline at (305) 579-9093. The legal unit of the Commission on Ethics reviews this information, and the Advocate may, in good faith, file a complaint based on the information provided, even in the absence of personal knowledge. The Advocate is also authorized to initiate complaints without citizen initiative.

The Ethics Commission does not hear complaints involving County personnel or other matters that require the complainant to exhaust municipal remedies first.

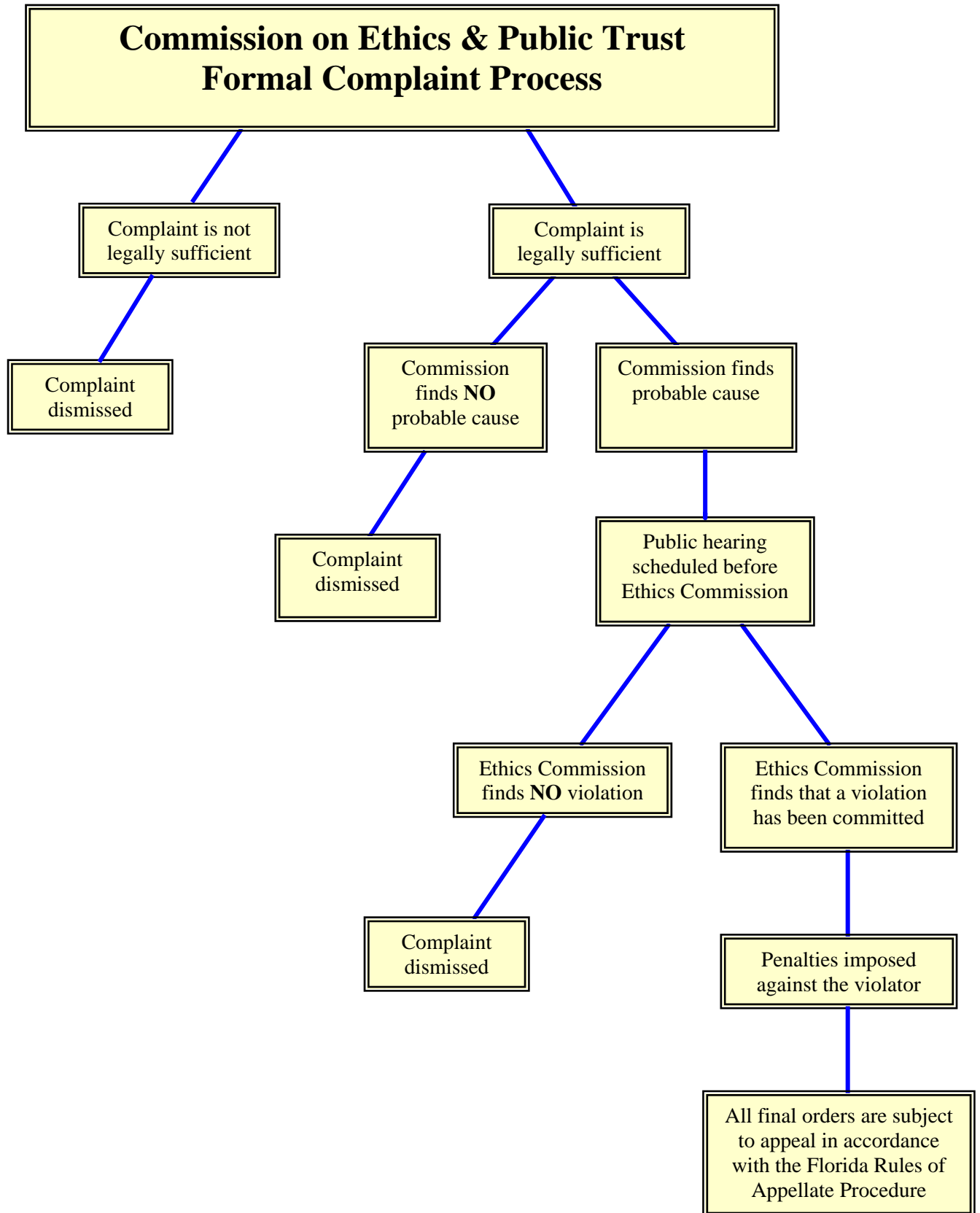
### **QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCESS**

Section 2-1074 of the Miami-Dade County Code outlines the process and powers for conducting investigations. The Ethics Commission is empowered to subpoena, audit, and investigate all facts and persons materially related to the complaint at issue.

If the Commission finds no probable cause that a violation has been committed, it shall dismiss the complaint and issue a report to the complainant and alleged violator. However, if the Ethics Commission finds probable cause, it shall notify the alleged violator and the complainant of such a determination and schedule a public hearing.

Penalties may include fines, letters of instruction, reprimand, restitution, and other consequences imposed by law. All final orders may be appealed pursuant to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

The following chart illustrates the process.



## ADVICE-GIVING ACTIONS

Anyone within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission may submit a written Request for an Opinion (RQO) or an Inquiry as to the proper interpretation or applicability of ordinances within the Ethics Commission's purview. The request must pertain to the particular facts of the individual's situation. In 2004, the Ethics Commission issued 377 advisory opinions and responses to inquiries.

## REQUESTS-FOR-OPINIONS SUMMARY

### TOTAL REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS—213

CODE §	ISSUES	NO. OF CASES*
(c)	Doing Business with the Government	5
(d)	Voting Conflicts	14
(e)	Gifts	3
(g)	Exploitation of Official Position	8
(h)	Confidential Information	5
(i)	Financial Disclosure	1
(j)	Conflicting Employment	24
(m)	Appearances before Government	5
(n)	Taking Official Action with Financial Interests	3
(q)	Two-year Rule	6
(s)	Lobbying	6
(t)	Cone of Silence	1
(u)	Prohibition on Certain Business Transactions	1
(v)	Voting Conflicts on Advisory Boards	2
(w)	Prohibition on Accepting Travel Expenses from Vendors	21
Other	Contracting	23

*\*Some requests apply to more than one provision of the Code.*

## INQUIRIES SUMMARY

Inquiries are informal advisory opinions rendered by the Ethics Commission legal staff and reviewed by the Executive Director. Oftentimes, officials or personnel may have questions that require immediate assistance, such as a pending issue regarding a voting conflict. An inquiry is rendered only when the issue is one that the Ethics Commission has formally addressed in previous opinions.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF INQUIRIES RENDERED—164

CODE §	ISSUES	NO. OF CASES*
(c)	Doing Business with the Government	19
(d)	Voting Conflicts	22
(e)	Gifts	27
(g)	Exploitation of Official Position	4
(i)	Financial Disclosure	9
(j)	Conflicting Employment	11
(m)	Appearances before Government	1
(n)	Taking Official Action with Financial Interests	1
(q)	Two-Year Rule	4
(s)	Lobbying	7
(t)	Cone of Silence	2
(v)	Voting Conflicts on Advisory Boards	9
(w)	Prohibition on Accepting Travel Expenses from Vendors	11
Other	Contracting/Miscellaneous	25

*\*Some requests apply to more than one provision of the Code.*

## ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

### COMPLAINTS FILED

The following individuals and agencies filed 52 complaints in 2004.

❑ The Advocate	*31
❑ The Public at-large	*21
❑ Dismissed for lack of probable cause after the initial investigation	4
❑ Dismissed for legal insufficiency	19
❑ Dismissed in the interests of justice	5
❑ Issuance of Letters of Instruction	6
❑ No Contest pleas and/or settlement	23
❑ Pending	1

*\*Some cases resulted in more than one administrative action.*

### INVESTIGATIONS INITIATED

The Advocate's investigative staff opened 80 investigations during the year 2004. These investigations were initiated in response to formal complaints, anonymous letters, "hotline" calls, newspaper articles, confidential informants, and other sources.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES

### 2004

The Ethics Commission has the authority and responsibility to review County and municipal ethics laws and recommend changes that support fairness, openness, and transparency in government. With this in mind, the Commission actively participated in legislative activities in 2004, with the following results:

- ❑ ***Prohibition on acceptance of travel expenses from County vendors.*** The County Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance was amended to bar governmental officials and employees from accepting travel expenses or travel-related expenses from County vendors, service providers, contractors, or bidders.
- ❑ ***Restitution.*** The Ethics Commission was given authority to impose restitution against a party who has violated one of the ordinances within its purview.
- ❑ ***Gifts solicitation on behalf of nonprofit agencies.*** The gift section of the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance was amended to permit local elected officials to solicit gifts on behalf of nonprofit organizations if neither the elected officials nor their staffs receive any compensation as a result of the solicitations.

## **GOALS for 2005**

### **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH STRATEGY**

- ❑ Collaborate with Miami-Dade League of Cities to offer more programs to newly elected local public officials and managers.
- ❑ Conduct ethics training for all County board members.
- ❑ Host the 2005 Conference on Leadership in Civil Discourse.
- ❑ Host a Media Ethics Conference in the Fall of 2005.
- ❑ Further expand the Model Student Ethics Commission Program.
- ❑ Conduct a Youth Ethics Conference.
- ❑ Redesign the Ethics Commission website to include comprehensive information, accessible in a user-friendly format.
- ❑ Continue to participate in the County Ethics Officer Program.

### **ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- ❑ Release results of twelve post-election audits prepared pursuant to the requirements of the County Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund Ordinance.
- ❑ Take on more complex investigations in conjunction with an increase of investigative resources.
- ❑ Monitor more of the Conflict of Interest opinions issued to construction contractors and subcontractors.
- ❑ Allocate more resources to the investigation and enforcement of outside employment activities of County and municipal personnel.
- ❑ Better utilize the Citizens' Bill of Rights to fight ethical misconduct in local government.

### **LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS**

- ❑ Advocate for increased accountability in procurement and purchasing activities.
- ❑ Advocate for the passage of a Reverse Two-Year Rule that would limit the authority of new County employees, formerly with the private sector, to influence the selection process, oversight, or enforcement of County contracts awarded to their former private-sector employees or employers.
- ❑ Advocate for reform of the County Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund Ordinance.
- ❑ Renew support of fee disclosure for lobbyists.
- ❑ Recommend a local enforcement mechanism for local campaign finance laws that are currently unregulated by the state.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- ❑ Conduct a joint retreat for Ethics Commissioners and staff to assess the work of the Commission since its inception, and develop a five-year strategic plan.
- ❑ Hire a minimum of two additional employees to handle increased workload.

MEMBERS OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION

Kerry E. Rosenthal, Chairman

Dawn Addy

Gail A. Dotson

Judge Seymour Gelber

Brenda Rivera

Robert Meyers, Executive Director

Visit our Website at: [www.miamidade.gov/ethics](http://www.miamidade.gov/ethics)

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FAX NUMBER: (305) 579-0273

Request a Speaker: (305) 350-0630